

REMARKS

Claims 41-43, 45-56, 58-62, 67, 68 and 73-75 are pending in the present application. Claims 41, 58 and 62 have been amended. Claims 44, 57, 63-66 and 69-72 have been canceled.

Information Disclosure Statement

Enclosed are copies of an Information Disclosure Statement and corresponding PTO-1449 form filed on November 8, 2004. Also enclosed is a copy of a dated, stamped postcard receipt provided as evidence that the Information Disclosure Statement was received by the U.S. Patent Office. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement, and to confirm that the corresponding document listed therein has been considered and will be cited of record in the present application.**

Drawings

Applicants note the Examiner's acceptance of the Drawing Replacement Sheets filed along with the Amendment dated August 4, 2004.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 41-43, 48-51 and 54-56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Clarke reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,920,809). Also,

claims 41-56, 63-66 and 69-72 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sanford et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,294,939).

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 41-75 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-59 of U.S. Patent No. 6,392,610.

Although Applicants do not necessarily concede that the above noted rejection is proper, a Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed herewith which should overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the double patenting rejection for at least these reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully note the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 57-61 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the Examiner's acknowledgment of allowable subject matter, claim 41 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 57, merely to advance prosecution of this application. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to acknowledge that claims 41-43, 45-56 and 58-62 are allowed.

Applicants also respectfully note the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 67,

68 and 73-75 would also be allowable if the double patenting rejection is obviated.

Since the double patenting rejection should now be withdrawn in view of the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge that claims 67, 68 and 73-75 are allowed.

Conclusion

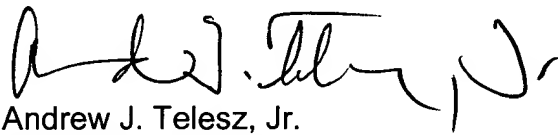
The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejections, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Enclosures: Copy of Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449 Form
Copy of postcard receipt
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